

**E**VER since *Star Wars* first burst upon unsuspecting filmgoers during the summer of 1977, George Lucas' highly original concept has developed into an ongoing feast of science-fiction extravaganza, fairytale heroics and spectacular special effects. All of which add up to cinematic story-telling at its entertaining best.

After the dark elegance of the *Star Wars* sequel *The Empire Strikes Back*, Lucas once again lets his imagination run wild with the latest adventure *Return Of The Jedi*. It concludes the middle third of the nine-part series, conceived by Lucas as three separate trilogies. Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher once again star as the heroic trio of the previous films.

Packed with action and surprises answering all of the saga's previously unresolved questions, *Return Of The Jedi* sees Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia set off in an attempt to rescue their friend Han Solo — last seen being carbon-frozen in the final cliffhanging episode of *The Empire Strikes Back*.

They then plan their next move against the evil Galactic Empire, for which the Rebel fleet have brought together all their warships to form a single, giant Armada. The Galactic Emperor, however, has ordered construction to begin on a new armoured Space Station many times more powerful than the dreaded Death Star.

Most of *Jedi* takes place in two strikingly different settings: the forested moon Endor, and the desert planet Tatooine. The location for Endor, where Darth Vader and the villainous Imperial forces have taken

# RETURN OF THE JEDI

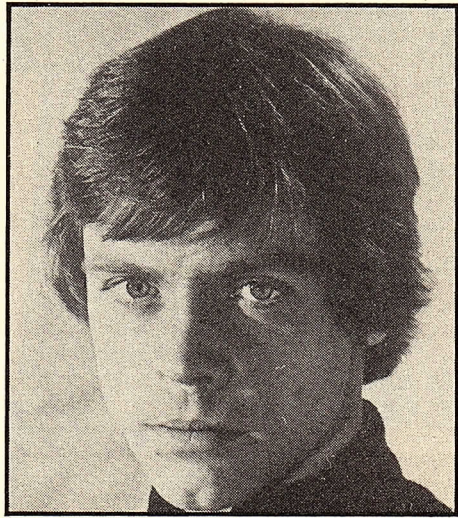
THE STORY CONTINUES WITH THIS LATEST  
STAR WARS EPIC

## MARK HAMILL is Luke Skywalker

★ In *Return Of The Jedi*, Mark Hamill again portrays the character which he created in the first two chapters of the saga, but as a result of his previous adventures Luke Skywalker's changed appearance reflects his increasing maturity.

"During *Star Wars*, I was in a white floppy rag doll outfit," says Hamill. "Then for *The Empire Strikes Back* I wore a militaristic-looking khaki-coloured costume. In *Jedi* I wear the black uniform of a trained Jedi. But the question is: what kind of Jedi? Is he a wizard, a religious figure, or just a glutton for punishment?"

"It's been a great thrill being involved in a project that has had this kind of impact. The *Star Wars* saga will always be a major aspect of my acting career."



up position, was the giant Redwood forest of California with its magnificent, towering, 1000-year-old trees.

To create a tree-top village on Endor, Redwoods that would take centuries to grow were moulded from styrofoam and plaster and artificially aged in a matter of hours. Amid these was built the village itself — only twenty feet off the studio ground — but when shrouded in mist from

below, appeared to rest a hundred feet above the forest.

In spite of the sandstorms which delayed production (on a film as complex and expensive as *Jedi*, 100,000 dollars a day is merely "standing still" money), Arizona was more than an adequate location for the desert planet Tatooine.

A new vehicle, the Imperial Shuttle, has been built, in addition to a huge, tank-like sand barge which is capable of skimming twenty feet above the desert surface.

*Jedi* will feature more monsters than the two earlier films combined, the creation and filming of which presented an immense challenge to the film's special effects team. As co-producer Robert Watts noted:

"*Star Wars* had a reasonable quota of monsters; *Empire* less so. This film is *the* monster movie. They are terribly difficult to do because you are breaking new ground each time on each new creature. You never know when they are going to be ready — and if they are ready, are they going to work?"

The amazing array of intergalactic denizens which populate *Jedi* include the reptilian Admiral Ackbar (a creature with big eyes at the side of his head and endlessly long arms,

## CARRIE FISHER

is Princess Leia

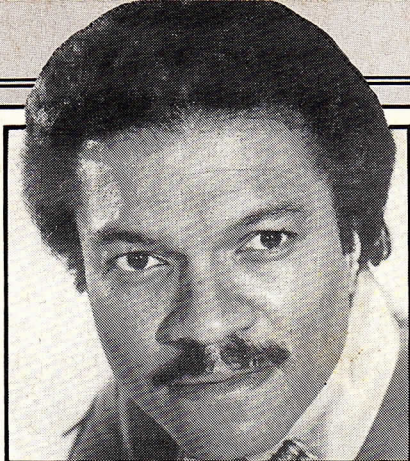
★ In what still remains her most well-known professional accomplishment, Carrie Fisher returns as the feisty heroine Princess Leia. Although she has successfully made her mark in the *Star Wars* series, the actress will never forget first getting the role at the age of 19.

"The original *Star Wars* was the only film I've tested for. I understand that George Lucas had interviewed about 400 other girls and tested about 50. In the end he cast the film as an ensemble piece — the three of us together. Apparently there were another three actors waiting in the wings in case we didn't work out, but at no time would it have been a mix-and-match."

In *Return Of The Jedi*, Carrie and director Richard Marquand have developed a much softer approach to Princess Leia, and she can be seen in several tender moments with Rebel hero Han Solo.







## BILLY DEE WILLIAMS

is Lando Calrissian

★ In 1979, when George Lucas offered Billy Dee Williams the part of Lando Calrissian, the charismatic and unpredictable boss of a space mining colony in *The Empire Strikes Back*, the actor's reaction was ecstatic.

"I wasn't going to pass up the opportunity to play Calrissian, and I fell in love with the name. If you're an actor — the kind of actor I am — you like to have fun. Being in these films is like Toy City! I'm living out all my fantasies. How do you not do a *Star Wars*?"

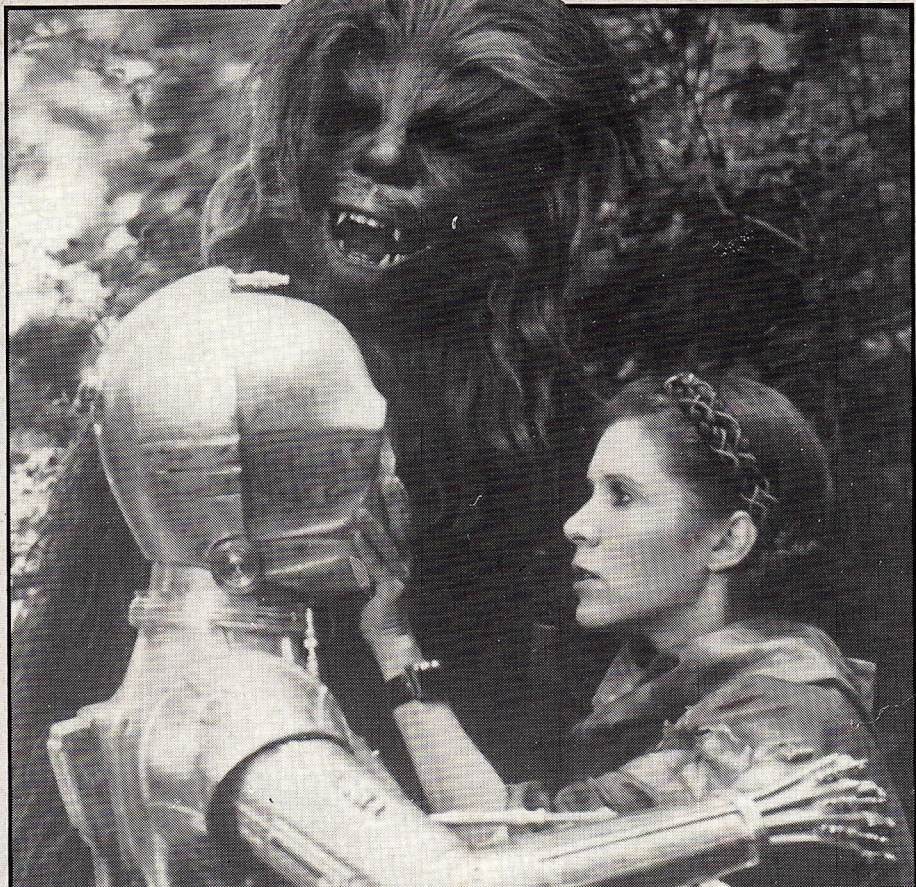
The role of Lando Calrissian was a new one, and Williams was delighted at being able to bring it back for *Return Of The Jedi*. The tall, lithe actor also likens himself to the character, whom Han Solo once described as "a gambler, con-artist and all-round scoundrel."

who leads the Rebel attack on the Empire); Zaalak, a creature which lives under the Tatooine sands; the semi-human Bib Fortuna; the pig-like Gamorrean Guards; the Rancor; and the vile Jabba the Hutt, who commands the sand barge.

There will, of course, be the return of Artoo-Detoo, Chewbacca and See-Threepio, and Frank Oz once again brings to life Yoda, the 900-year-old Jedi Master who made his astonishing debut in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Look out, too, for a musical trio which go by the names of Max Rebo, Sy Snootles and Droopy McCool.

With yet another Oscar under his belt for his terrific *E.T.* score, John Williams completed his own landmark trilogy of *Star Wars* compositions with his soundtrack for *Jedi*. The score sparkles with adaptations of familiar melodies such as the "Star Wars Theme," "Yoda's Theme," and "The Imperial March" — in addition to a number of new themes Williams has written for the movie. In all, he has created a unique, musical universe.

If *Star Wars* was a prodigy and *The Empire Strikes Back* a phenomenon, then *Return Of The Jedi* establishes the saga as a genuine



Artoo-Deetoo, Chewbacca and Princess Leia in *Return Of The Jedi*

and unique cinema culture. In only a short time, its characters and events have slipped readily into our contemporary mythology, bringing heroes and legends to a whole new generation of filmgoers.

Perhaps the enormous appeal and worldwide commercial success of the *Star Wars* series is due in part to George Lucas' own philosophy on film: "One of the most important

things is to create an emotion in the audience. The movie can be funny, sad or scary, but there has to be an emotion. It has to make you want to cry, laugh, or jump out of your seat."

If *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back* are anything to go by, audiences can fully expect to be doing all of those things when *Return Of The Jedi* arrives on their local screens.

L.D.

## HARRISON FORD

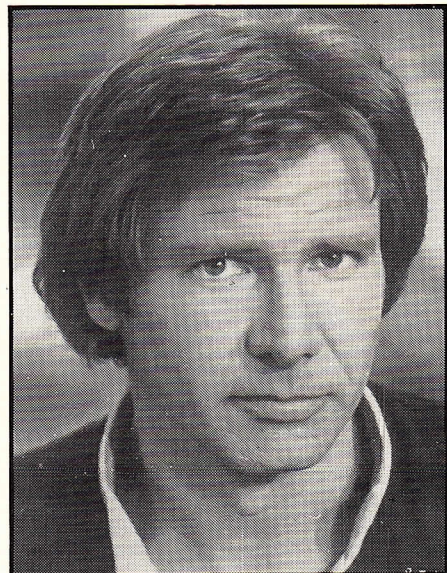
is Han Solo

★ Resuming the role of the dashing space-smuggler and Rebel ally, Harrison Ford as Han Solo has become one of the most popular characters of the *Star Wars* series. It's interesting to note, in the light of the saga's phenomenal success, that he was originally uncertain about how *Star Wars* would be received.

"I really wasn't sure how that first film would do. I thought either it would reach a wide audience who would recognise it as a fun, space-age western, or it would be so silly that my two kids would be embarrassed for me to even leave the house."

Now that the series has proved its potential, Harrison has become very comfortable with his part as the handsome, brave space pilot.

"For Han, I intentionally keep my interpretation simple. Han is no longer the only stamp in my professional passport, but somehow he has become part of me."





photoplay  
**MOVIES & VIDEO**







The star cast of the film with (left) George Lucas, executive producer and (right) Richard Marquand



Artoo Detoo (operated by Kenny Baker) is turned into a waiter. Marquand disliked the mechanical models

this movie? Within the terms of making a very fast moving, very emotional, exciting, tense two-hour drama you are also tying up these little ends which is fun to do but very hard."

*Return Of The Jedi* is the concluding chapter of the central *Star Wars* trilogy, originally conceived by Lucas in nine parts. Was it necessary for Marquand to read the rest of the story in its entirety?

"No. But I did ask a lot of questions about it because it seemed to me that it mattered a lot where these people came from and so on. And some of the information we've got in the film gives you information about the previous three chapters. There is information about Ben Kenobi and his relationship with Darth Vader that is very interesting."

The backbone of the film was again shot at EMI Elstree with two major location areas — a desert in Umah where shooting was nearly disastrously held up by a two-day sandstorm, and a redwood forest in Northern California near Oregon. *Jedi* came in on its budget of over 32 million dollars but, apart from the sandstorm, I asked him whether there had been any other problems during filming.

"We had an incredibly smooth shoot. It was just extraordinary. But I hope I never have to work with Artoo Detoo again. Little monster. It was an eye-opener. I had been told constantly, 'Ha ha ha. Wait until you start shooting sequences

involving the androids' and I didn't pay any attention. Artoo is so charming and lovely on the screen, but it is such a monstrous little thing. He has brainstorms. You pull out his plug at the wrong time in the morning and he freaks out. He'll do a rehearsal perfectly and when you're ready for a take he suddenly explodes or something. There are thirteen of them and each one does two things but doesn't do them all. You have to shoot them all separately and it just drives you

**"I hope I never have to work with Artoo Detoo again. Little monster . . . You pull out his plug at the wrong time in the morning and he freaks out"**

crazy because he is one of the stars of the movie. He just gives that little upbeat 'Beep!' at the right moment and everybody feels good again."

He stresses that whenever Kenny Baker was operating Artoo, the thing behaved very well and it was only the mechanical ones that played the prima donna on set.

Before shooting, Marquand spent a lot of time talking to the actors Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford, about the development of their characters.

"Carrie told me a lot about the Princess. Because I'd got a bit fed up with Leia just racing around being bitchy all the time I suggested

we bring out more of her warmth, that she should let her hair down and shed a tear or something. Carrie thought that was great and we've been able to do that a bit. Mark has matured, too. There's a young Clint Eastwood there. He just looks great. That's partly what this is about; it's the development of this kid from a callow youth into a real, dangerous man. And it works. Mark has come to terms with the fact that there is no more Luke Skywalker. Oh dear . . . that's a giveaway . . ."

A former actor himself, having turned down an offer to join the National Theatre after leaving Cambridge, Marquand considers himself an actors' director. This attitude, he claims, was absolutely right for the film.

"The young generation that loved *Star Wars* and who dived into the whole experience of the myth have grown up. They haven't forgotten the original — they still care about that — but they need more now. They need a tougher attitude, stronger emotions and more depth of character. We get pretty close to the bone in certain areas of pitches of danger and hate and love. I'm a great believer in pushing things as far as you can possibly go. Certain scenes are tough to take for the youngsters. On the other hand for the generation that have grown up they're going to be terrific. It will balance out OK. It's still a fairytale about a princess and a young man who doesn't know who his dad is and is lost in space . . ."